

that will be bitterly fought—not only on battlefields that will become increasingly more difficult to define, but in the halls of deliberative bodies around the world by those whose love of freedom and whose grasp of the reality of the situation is not yet equal to the task. And this war will produce veterans—men and women who will serve their country and who will bring us the victory that this nation and civilization demands—and who, once victory is assured, will—in the time honored tradition set forth by our first leader, return to private life as citizens.

And today, America honors its veterans, not always understanding what it is that they have accomplished, and not always comprehending how they think. But we know, and that is enough for us. So today—Veterans! Stand proud! For you have served, and today your country honors you. And for those of you who are not veterans, know what it is that these men and women have done. And give them honor, for they have earned it—not merely for their bravery, but for their willingness—indeed their eagerness that once having had power, they wanted only to return to their lives in their offices, their farms, their shops—for they are the quintessential veterans. They are Americans.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 5th District of Connecticut and the United States House of Representatives, I commend Rabbi Eric A. Silver for his honorable years of military service, and thank him for his remarks this Veteran's Day.

SELECTIVE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Dean E. Schick of Cheyenne Wells, Colorado; Mr. Leslie M. Rittgers of Eads, Colorado; and Mr. C.P. Bryant, Jr. of Las Animas, Colorado on their appointments to the Selective Service Local Board 025 in Pueblo, Colorado.

Local board members have the distinction of receiving an appointment by the Director of Selective Service in the name of President George W. Bush, and on the recommendation of Governor Bill Owens. Patriotic Americans, these board members serve their country by volunteering their time to assist the government in selecting men suitable for military service in the event of a draft. If a draft commences, these gentlemen would decide who would receive deferments, postponements, or exemption from military service based on the individual registrant's circumstances and beliefs.

The Selective Service System is America's defense manpower "insurance policy" in a still dangerous and uncertain world. The service performed by a Selective Service Board Member provides a vital link between the community and today's military. His hard work helps guarantee claims filed by young men for deferments and exemptions will receive fair and equitable consideration if a future crisis requires reinstatement of a draft.

Congratulations to these dedicated volunteers on their appointments. I ask the House to join me in thanking these three men for their commitment to their country.

HONORING ASHLAND POLICE CHIEF FREDERIC PLEASANTS, JR. FOR HIS ROLE IN THE SNIPER ATTACKS

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ashland Police Chief Frederic Pleasants, Jr. for his role during the sniper attacks that shook Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

After the Ashland, Virginia shooting of October 19th, Chief Pleasants was on the scene in a matter of minutes and helped lead the quick and efficient response that ensued. It is known that Chief Pleasants can always be found hard at work behind the scenes, a characteristic that will certainly benefit the prosecution during the trial of the suspects. In fact, throughout the ordeal, Chief Pleasants and his dedicated staff logged 16-plus-hour days.

Chief Pleasants is an exceptional law enforcement officer who has served the Commonwealth of Virginia with distinction for over 32 years. His humility, professionalism, commitment to his team and community are truly deserving of special recognition. We are fortunate that he serves in our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Chief Pleasants.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, a year ago, on September 11th, 2001, Americans were faced with the horrible reality of that day's heinous attacks.

As we gather here today, in the building that served as our Nation's first Capitol and witnessed the inauguration of our first president, our blessed Nation stands firm and it stands strong.

Over the past year, Americans have shown those who wished to tear our country apart that their cowardly actions only brought our nation closer together. Here in the place where our democracy was born, we say to the world that these states of America remain united. We are united by our values, our communities, and our freedoms. Just as we will never forget what makes this nation great, we will never forget the hardships we have endured. We will always remember September 11th.

Even though America has had a year to mourn our losses, we still weep for the victims of that day. We continue to offer our prayers, our comfort, and our resolve to those who lost loved ones on that day.

Without question, the attacks of September 11th were a strike against all nations that value freedom and democracy. It was an act of war, but we were not to be intimidated. As a Congress, we remain steadfast with our nation in the fight against terrorism. American history has always been defined by the resiliency of our people and I stand here today to repeat our solemn pledge to defend freedom

and liberty and show that we will remain resilient no matter the threat. The freedoms and values our forefathers gathered in this hall to protect are simply too sacrosanct to ever be compromised.

REGARDING THE RETIREMENT OF
GEORGE O. WITHERS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, this is the time of year that we say farewell to some old friends. That's never easy. But it is even harder when the friend in question spent considerable time and energy helping make us all look good.

George Withers, who is leaving the Armed Services Committee staff at the end of this year, came to Capitol Hill in 1978. He had served his country in the Navy during Vietnam. But he has spent twenty-four years proving that national service doesn't end when you take off the uniform. As legislative director on a personal staff, then press secretary and a professional staff member of the committee, George has made America better every day.

A lot of young go-getters come to work on the Hill, Mr. Speaker. But George proved that you don't have to be obnoxious to get things done. His real sense of decency and values have provided a reference and example for not only the Armed Services Committee staff, but all of us who worked with him.

George has been the conscience of the committee staff. He is a devoted advocate for those Americans who most need and deserve Congress's protection. Discussions of national security can get pretty esoteric, but George makes sure that we keep our focus on people, both those in uniform and those our military exists to protect. As a former enlisted man and NCO, he never lets the former officers on the staff forget who the real troops are.

Mr. Speaker, while our staff works in a non-partisan way, George is a determined, thoroughgoing, old-school Democrat. But look at the pictures on his office walls. Yes, he has photos of himself with our former colleagues Ron Dellums and Silvio Conte. But there's John Kasich, too, and President Bush. All of which speaks to the fairness and openmindedness with which George approached his job. He lets his political beliefs inform his work, but never get in the way of doing what was right for the country.

To my way of thinking, George has only one flaw. The B-2 bomber is the pride of Whiteman Air Force Base, in my district. George led the fight at the staff level against the B-2, and succeeded for quite some time. In gratitude for George's exemplary service, I promise not to have one named for him.

In recent years, George's primary duties have concerned the military construction budget. Every member of this body whose district has received military construction funds—and that's most of us—has George Withers to thank.

But he was also our committee's driving force on policies concerning Latin America. Whether the question was the naval bombing on Vieques or the United States' role in Colombia, George fought for a sensible, humble foreign policy.